

Castlederg School



S.S. No. 6, Albion

FOREWORD

As we now approach the final closing of our School, S.S. No. 6, Albion Township (Castleberg), and have already undergone similar treatment as to our church, we the members of the Historical Committee and many others of our citizens feel that some record of this School Section and Castleberg area should be recorded and preserved. Thus we dedicate this booklet to that end.

—Compiled and written by Mrs. Stewart (Zella) Mellow.

COMMITTEE: Mr. O. H. Downey, chairman; Mr. Stewart Mellow, convener; Mrs. Cragg Wakely, Mrs. E. H. Stewart, Miss Mae Harper, Mrs. Thomas French.

HISTORY OF S.S. NO. 6, CASTLEBERG, ALBION TOWNSHIP

This is Castleberg's story—
Of now and the yesteryear,
Of the hamlet the school and the people,
The factual record is here!

Naturally our first thoughts have to do with the beginning. How far back do we go to find the first pioneers of the area? The men and women we recall paid the price of what we are. We should bear in memory the dust-gray wagons with screeching axles, and the Gees and Haws of their drivers and of the graves of loved ones along the way, many not marked. These are our ancestors, not only the people of our own family tree, but all who preceded us in building this community.

In 1818 Mr. William Downey came to the area we now know as the Township of Albion with the intention of locating a lot which he had drawn from the Government. Unable to find it in the wilderness he returned to Muddy York (Toronto). The following spring, 1819, with an Indian guide, he returned accompanied by Mr. Benjamin Hudson, and Mr. William Roadhouse, Sr. and Mr. William Roadhouse, Jr. It is a matter of interest to know the lots they secured. Mr. W. Downey, lot 16, con. 8; Mr. Benjamin Hudson, lot 16,, con. 6; Messrs Wm. Roadhouse Sr. and Jr., lots 22 and 23, con. 9.

Castleberg can be justly proud of having two of these first pioneers, Messrs. Downey and Hudson, settle in this community, in which several descendants of both men now reside. From all accounts these four gentlemen were the first white settlers who ever slept in the Township of Albion.

From this beginning more settlers arrived in Albion, chiefly from the British Isles, swelling the population to 110 in 1821 with 62 acres of cleared land. In the census roll for 1848 there were: 8 school teachers, 13 blacksmith, 1 clergyman, 22 carpenters, 419 farmers, 16 innkeepers, 60 labourers, 3 millers, 12 merchants, 2 physicians, 9 shoemakers, 2 tailors, 2 tanners, 4 wagon makers, 12 weavers, 1 plumber, and 1 retired gentleman.

Not many years elapsed after these first families settled before they were instrumental in having churches erected. This illustrates the concern of the early settlers for the things of the spirit, along with their own houses they wanted a church home. Previous to this they held their church services in the homes. Through the years Castleberg has been

blessed with the erection of two churches, the Primitive and the Wesleyan Methodist, later uniting to be known as the Methodist Church in Canada.

Now we are living in a new era, in which the trend seems to be away from the rural churches and schools, so the little country church, and the little red school house have to close their doors. The present church building after standing for seventy years was officially closed January 1966, by a former member the Rev. Douglas Davis.

It is always interesting to know how the little hamlets throughout the country were named. Castlederg for instance was not always known by that name, but was originally known as Mount Hurst. With no post office in the north of Albion and in fact no Coventry, no Palgrave, no Mount Wolfe, and no Cedar Mills, the Hon. J. H. Cameron granted a post office and named it "Mount Hurst" after some place in Scotland. Over one hundred years ago John Wallace arrived at Mount Hurst from Castlederg, County Tyrone, Ireland, to clerk in the general store conducted by a Mr. Irwin, located on the east part of lot 15, con. 7, Albion. On Mr. Irwin's departure from Mount Hurst the store was taken over by Mr. Wallace who conducted it until his death in 1918. After the Grey and Bruce Railway was built some of the mail addressed to Mount Hurst was by some error going to other centres such as Mount Forest. Representation was made to the Hon. Postmaster General, who to obviate such advised the change of name from Mount Hurst to Castlederg in honor of John Wallace and his birthplace Castlederg, Ireland.

About that time Castlederg was comprised of 2 churches, 1 school, the Post Office and general store, 1 blacksmith shop, 1 wagon making and wood working shop.

EARLY RESIDENTS WITH CASTLEDERG AS THEIR POST OFFICE

Name	Location	Date of Settlement	Occupation
E. Armstong	Lot 18, Con. 10	1851	Farmer
E. Brandon	14	9 1875	Farmer
Wm. Bowes	16	9 1854	Farmer
John Colley	16	8 1839	Farmer
Wm. Downey	16	8 1869	Farmer
Henry Downey Jr.	15	8 1867	Farmer
David Garbutt	20	7 1857	Farmer
Robert Godbolt	9	7 1852	Farmer
Henry Harper	13	6 1834	Farmer
Wm. Jameson	13	8 1831	Farmer
G. Jones Sr.	16	7 1849	Blacksmith & Farmer
John Mellow	17	5 1846	Lumberman & Farmer
James Monkman	17	8 1834	Farmer
Wm. Monkman	18	8 1875	Farmer & Builder
Alex. McCabe	15	6 1834	Farmer & Stock Raiser
Wm. Noble	15	7 1836	Farmer

Chris. Noble	15	7	1858	Farmer
C. Norris	21	8	1856	Farmer
Thos. Robb	24	7	1871	Farmer & Agent
James Riddell	13	5	1854	Farmer
James Ruston	18	10	1837	Farmer
S. D. Rutherford	18 & 19	7	1871	Farmer
H. A. Rutherford	13	8	1854	Farmer
Eli Roadhouse	15	8	1865	Blacksmith & Farmer
J. Roadhouse	19	8	1876	Farmer
G. Robinson	16	9	1865	Farmer
John Trimble	16	7	1876	Farmer & Builder
Sam. Wadby	17	9	1841	Farmer
John Wallace	15	7	1856	Merchant

Elected to office in 1842 from Albion, which also included Bolton was one James Johnston, the maternal grandfather of Sir Lyman Duff, one of our country's most distinguished judges. Albion was one of the five townships of Peel County and has remained as such until the present. Peel County along with York and Ontario Counties made up the Home District.

At that time properties in the front townships were worth five pounds per acre, those more remote five to ten shillings per acre, but all were rated and assessed the same.

On November 10, 1842, the council suggested to the House of Assembly of Canada that certain amendments be made. One was reporting once or twice a year the state and progress of education in each township. That good moral character and habits, with suitable education, should in all cases be considered the necessary qualification for teachers without regard to origin or place of birth, and that female teachers should be permitted to be employed in certain cases, particularly in back townships and during summer months.

The tax of one shilling and three pence per month for each scholar at school be abolished and that those liable to pay school rates do meet once a year and appoint among themselves either three or five trustees who would be authorized to manage all local school affairs, such as building school houses, buying land to hold in trust, also a residence for the teacher, keep the school in repair, furnish it, find fuel, engage teacher, make up the salary. The money apportioned to Albion Township for the year 1843 was eighty-nine pounds, twelve shillings for ten schools and 201 children.

In 1844 it was requested that a road be opened between lots 15 and 16, 7th concession, Albion. (Castlederg Sideroad).

On January 20th, 1848 trustees of S.S. No. 6, Albion (Castlederg) were assessed for the erection of a school house. In that same year the first school at Mount Hurst (Castlederg) was built on the West part of Lot 15, con. 8. According to the Inspector's summary 1851 and 1852 it was Freehold. In good repair with one room. There were desks and seats, had a playground but no privy. There was no library, but there was a World map and they used both the Bible and Testament. It was built of frame construction size 25' x 25'. The amount levied or subscribed for rent and repairs of school 10£, 7S. 7D. The male teacher

received a salary without board of 50£. He was not trained at Normal School. There were 4 visits by the local superintendents and 8 visits by the clergyman. The school had been kept open by a qualified teacher for 12 months of the year. Of the total attendance of 95 there were 53 boys and 42 girls. It is noteworthy that the average attendance was only 26 in the summer and 34 in the winter. Many of the older children attended only during the winter months, during the summer they were busy helping their parents at home.

Our past was not drab at school Section No. 6. It was exciting in its happenings and diversified enough to suit the most exacting story teller. It was full of sharp contrasts both in motive of exploration and method of settlement. A study of that past concerns us as children of our parents, what we do at this time concerns us as parents of our children.

Possibly because the first school outgrew its usefulness from over crowding there was a new school erected on the present site to the west of Castlederg on part of Lot 16, con. 7, Albion. The change of location of the school was a serious cause of dissension between the residents of the eastern portion of the section and those of the western portion. The main cause of this dissension being the location away from the Post Office.

The school has occupied its present site since about 1873, of one room and has had in attendance as many as 77. Until 1919 the school was of frame construction, in that year it was veneered with brick. About 1890 it received its first coat of paint, previous to that date it had been the custom to whitewash the school room. Following this for several years many improvements were made to the school and grounds. Inside toilets were installed, entrance was changed from two doors to one.

In 1915 the school for the first time became associated with school fair work, and through the years in this work they were most successful. In 1922 a school nurse visited the school and in 1938 a music supervisor was engaged to help and to direct the teaching of music.

In the early days Albion Township was part of Peel County Inspectorate under the supervision of Inspectors Galbraith, and Fydell. About 1930 Albion was transferred to South Simcoe Inspectorate under Inspectors Carlton and Lapp of Bradford. In 1939 Albion was restored to the Inspectorate of Peel County under the supervision of W. F. Smith until his superannuation in 1944. He was followed by Mr. E. R. Underhill, Brampton. In 1946 Mr. McClelland was appointed assistant inspector to Mr. Underhill. In 1950 Mr. Nelson was appointed assistant inspector to Mr. Underhill.

Several improvements were made such as industrial arts and crafts were introduced into the school, benches were erected, seats put on slides, and a second teacher's desk was made. A sink was installed on the playground by the pupils and teacher as a project in Manual Training, swings erected, teeters and swings painted, and grounds mowed. Trees were replaced and flower beds improved. Hydro was installed in 1948 by Mr. Wm. Downey.

S.S. No. 6, Albion, received \$9.00 as first prize in beautification contest from the township of Albion and \$10.00 as second prize in the County of Peel Competition. They also received third prize in the Brampton

Rotary Club exhibition of crafts and won several awards at Peel County Musical Festival.

In June, 1957, the trustees decided that due to the increased attendance it would be necessary to build an additional room, which would necessitate the hiring of another teacher.

There have been so many successful men and women ex-pupils of Castlederg school, that it would be impossible to name them all, however some of those more prominent in the public eye among whom the following have achieved for themselves brilliant success: Mr. Ross Downey, public school inspector at Peterboro; Professor Riddell, Winnipeg University; and his brothers Rev. Riddell and Dr. Riddell; Rev. S. Sharpe, for many years a Presbyterian Minister; and Miss Fanny Monkman for many years Matron of a Chicago hospital. In addition to these Mr. Frank Rutherford, a teacher of the school was in turn supervisor of Technical Education, head of Vocational Guidance and then in 1946 Deputy Minister of Education.

We are also proud that five ex-pupils have attained the high honor of Warden for their county. These honored gentlemen are Messrs. Wm. Riddell, O. H. Downey, Cecil Gott and W. E. Downey in Peel County and Albert Rutherford in York County.

The Reeve of Albion Township, Mr. Leonard Clarkson, and the Deputy Reeve, Mr. Stewart Rutherford, first learned the A.B.C.'s at the little school house at Castlederg.

There are several pupils of later years who were members of the Junior Farmer Organization who have made several achievements by winning Provincial championships in a wide range of subjects from debating, public speaking, judging to athletics.

Through the years second, third, and fourth generation children have followed their ancestors through those portals of learning. Bruce Mellow is a fifth generation pupil at the present time of closing S.S. No. 6. He was preceded by his father, grandfather, great grandfather and great, great grandmother, Mrs. Eliza (Hudson) Mellow.

We pay tribute to the ex-pupils of Castlederg who served their King and Country.

WORLD WAR I — 1914 to 1918

Leonard Elliot	Lloyd Rutherford
Leonard Bowes	James Harper
Tindale Rutherford	George Mintrum

WORLD WAR II — 1939 to 1945

Eric Armstrong	William Chamberlain
Gordon Edwards	Robert Johnstone
Ted Edwards	Robert Reeves
Kenneth Rolley	Arthur Cox
Milton Rolley	John Nickles
George Downey	

We regret the loss of one of our boys, Gordon Edwards, in the second World War. He gave his life for his King and Country.

TO THE TEACHERS

Some carve in the white gleaming marble
The things that in fancy they see;
Some fix them with canvas and color,
And bring them to you and to me;
Some guide with "thou shalt" and "thou shalt not";
Some seek to inspire with song;
You build with a subtler material,
The traits that shall make the race strong

When the statues have weathered and fallen,
When the paint on the canvas is dead,
When the precepts of priests are forgotten,
And the songs of the singer are sped,
You shall live in the lives you have moulded
And led with the courage of ten.
The Great Master Workman be with you!
I hail you, ye makers of men!

—J. C. Harwood.

Although a complete list of the first teachers is not available we understand that Miss Martha Rutherford was the last teacher at the first school and the first teacher at the second school.

1889 Miss Mary Rutherford
1890 Miss Hughes, Mr. N. Steele, Mr. Wm. Mogill
1891 Miss Susie Galbraith
1892 Miss Susie Galbraith
1893 Miss Lorena Jeffs
1894 Miss Lorena Jeffs
1895 Mr. Fred Grafton
1896 Miss Ilda Steele
1897 Miss Ilda Steele
1898 Miss Ovens, Miss Kate Ramsay, Miss Alberta White.
1899 Miss Alberta White
1900 Miss Alberta White
1901 Miss Alberta White
1902 Miss Amy Galbraith
1903 Miss Amy Galbraith
1904 Miss Amy Galbraith
1905 Miss Campbell
1906 Miss A Manderson
1907 Miss C. Taylor
1908 C. Taylor, Mr. Frank Rutherford
1909 Mr. Frank Rutherford, Clarence Monkman
1910 Mr. Clarence Monkman, Miss MacDonald
1911 Miss L. J. Ridley, Miss Elmer

1912 Miss Harrison
1913 O. H. Matson
1914 Miss Vipond
1915 Miss Vipond
1916 Miss Speirs, Miss K. Robb
1917-18 Miss K. Robb
1919 Miss E. Wallis
1920 Miss E. Wallis, Miss Achison
1921 Miss Achison, Miss Wilson
1922-23 Miss Wilson
1924-26 Miss Cunningham
1926 Miss Whitten, Miss Parslow
1927-28 Miss Parslow, Mr. G. Lindsay
1929 Mr. Gordon Lindsay
1930 Miss Marion Fawcett
1931-34 Miss Marion Fawcett, Miss Mary Moon
1935-36 Miss Mary Moon, Miss Jean Clarke
1937-38 Mr. Robert Raine
1939 Mr. Charles McFadden
1940 Miss Pearl Harvey
1941-42 Miss Pearl Harvey
1942 Mrs. G. Jackson
1943-46 Mr. Ivan Montgomery
1947-51 Miss Evelyn Bowman
1951 Mr. Bruce Campbell
1952-54 Miss B. Thomas
1955 Miss Logan
1957-59 Mrs. M. Hemphill and Mrs. E. Ley (Two rooms).
1959-66 Mrs. Doris Robinson and Miss Norma Bangay.

School closed permanently June, 1966. Children transferred to Palgrave area school. At time of closing there were 25 pupils in the Senior room and 28 in the Junior room.

TRUSTEES OF SCHOOL SECTION NO. 6 CASTLEDERG, ALBION TWP.

Messrs. Samual Rutherford, James Gott,, Harry Newlove before 1900; Messrs. Albert Rutherford, John Clark, Samuel Elliott 1910-16; Messrs. George Downey, 1906-27; Bert Mellow 1912-32; Cecil Gott 1917-19; Wilbert Allan 1920-25; Wallace Elliott 1926-34; Wilton Downey 1928-36; H. E. Stewart 1933-42; Hiliard Matson 1935-44; Hudson Wilson 1937-43; Arthur Clarkson 1943-48; R. J. Rutherford 1944-49; Stewart Mellow 1945-50; Howard Witty 1949-51; Stewart Rutherford 1950-55; Ray Matson 1951-53; Wm. Rutherford 1952-59; James Downey 1954-59; Bruce McCauley 1956-62; George Miles 1959-60; Wm. Downey 1960-62; Peter Weeks 1961-62.

The last trustee meeting of School Section 6, Albion was held December 27, 1962.

SECRETARY-TREASURERS OF S.S. NO. 6

Previous to the year 1944 one of the three trustees acted as Sec'ty-Treas., but at the annual meeting that year Mr. Hilliard Matson Sr. was appointed to act as Secretary-Treasurer of S.S. No. 6, Castlederg.

In 1948 Mrs. Lloyd Rutherford was appointed as Sec.-Treas. which she held until she resigned in 1949.

At the trustee meeting 1950, Mr. Wilton Downey was appointed Sec.-Treas., which position he held until the end of 1959. In 1960 Mr. Jo. Ferguson took over these duties until the end of Dec. 1962, when S.S. No. 6, Castlederg, Albion, became a part of the Albion Township School Area.

MUSIC TEACHERS OF S.S. NO. 6

Miss E. Lyons 1936-37

Mr. Bender 1938-39

Mr. Herb Campbell 1939-51

Mrs. Wm. Addison 1952

Mrs. A. P. Rowe 1952-57

Mrs. Glen Davis 1958

Mrs. Joe Dennis 1959-62

School teachers Mrs. Hemphill and Mrs. Ley also taught music.

And so we say farewell to S.S. No. 6, Castlederg, Albion. It is with regret for many in the community whose fondest recollections are entwined with their childhood school days there. Many said their first recitation on the stage at their Christmas Concert, and have gone on to take their place as officials in government, or in other walks of life.

So many enjoyable evenings have been spent there. Community Clubs with their varied programs, from costume parties to box socials, and presentations, welcoming new couples into the community or bidding farewell to those leaving.

But this is the new era, so off with the old, and on with the new.

This is the end of an era!

Castlederg school is no more.

But many a memory we cherish

Recalling those good days of yore.

Though progress and time march onward

And we would quicken our pace,

Yet the lessons we learn in childhood

The years can never erase!

